



**Kennesaw Parks & Recreation**  
**2753 Watts Drive**  
**Kennesaw, Georgia 30144**  
**Contact: (770) 422-9714**

## **Press Release**

### **BE A FRIEND TO A CHILD THIS SUMMER, DONATE BLOOD FOR ALL THE LITTLE REASONS**

Kennesaw, Georgia (June 24, 2005) - Summer is a time when children live life to the fullest, so it's ironic that it is also a time when many of their lives are left hanging in the balance from playground, automobile and household accidents. Help save the life of a child this summer by taking time to donate blood to the American Red Cross.

Please give blood with your friends and family members on Monday, July 18, from 2pm to 7pm at the Kennesaw Community Center, located at 2753 Watts Drive (near the intersection of US-41 and Watts Drive). All blood drive participants will receive a T-shirt and be eligible to enter a raffle to win a \$1,500 gas card from CITGO.

Every summer, hospital emergency rooms are flooded with children and teenagers who suffer serious trauma in accidents and need blood transfusions to survive. Many times, hospitals don't have enough blood on their shelves to treat all the children who come through their doors.

"Our children look forward to the summer because it's a time when they can get out and run and play," said Cammie Barnes, American Red Cross Blood Services spokeswoman. "They go 100 miles per hour. While this is fun for them, too often it results in serious accidents and injuries. Your blood donation could save their lives," said Barnes.

Because it takes up to three days for blood to be processed and made available to hospitals, it is important that a donation be made ahead of an emergency. You can make a big difference in the life of a child by taking a little time to give blood this summer.

Your gift of life can help to ensure that enough blood will be available for those children who will need transfusions this summer. Just one donation from you can help up to three patients.

"We encourage everyone to think about the smiles, the reunions and the peace of mind their donation will bring and then to stop by the blood drive and turn those possibilities into realities," said Barnes.

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Most healthy people age 17 or older who weigh at least 110 pounds can donate blood every 56 days or platelets every two weeks, up to 24 times each year. The American Red Cross Blood Services, Southern Region needs at least 1,200 people to donate blood each weekday to meet the needs of hospital patients. To schedule an appointment to donate blood, please call (770) 422-9714.

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